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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

TOPIC Volkspolizei Dienststelle in Gotha

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 21 February 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1C DATE PREPARED 2 April 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED] 25X1A

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

Prior to 21 February 1951, the Flak Kaserne in Gotha quartered a VP Bereitschaft, which, in official correspondence, was referred to as VP Dienststelle (VPD), Gotha. The unit consisted of about 700 police, 200 of whom were newly recruited VP candidates. The new arrivals received three weeks of basic infantry training, followed by night and close-combat practice, and arms training with carbines, Belgian pistols, model 42 machine guns, and Soviet submachine guns. Upon completion of basic training, training with light and heavy mortars was scheduled to start about the end of March or the beginning of April. In addition to small arms, the VPD was equipped with two 88-mm AA guns, three T-34 tanks, and one armored scout car. The tanks arrived at the installation during the night of 15 January 1951. The tracks were obliterated as the tanks moved along in order to conceal their arrival from the population. *

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The VPD in Gotha was [REDACTED] to have a strength of approximately 2,000 police. Since elements of the VPD are also quartered in the Burgerau Kaserne, which previously housed the former 7th VP Bereitschaft, [REDACTED] determined only the strength of the police in the Flak Kaserne on Lindenhuegel.

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